

Stephen L. Nass
Wisconsin State Senator

PRESS RELEASE

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**UW System President Ray Cross – No Apology Needed on Racial Justice
Nass: Cross needs to stay focused on educational reforms that benefit all students.**

Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater), Vice-Chairman of the Senate University and Technical Colleges Committee, responded to media accounts that UW System President Ray Cross agreed to issue a public apology for the system's failures on racial justice. The commitment to apologize occurred in a meeting on January 21st with activist students, alumni and faculty seeking major commitments, including a requirement that every student and employee in the system attend "racial awareness and inclusion" trainings or face punishments.

"President Cross needs to stop wasting time appeasing the political correctness crowd demanding safe-spaces, safe-words, universal apologies for hurt feelings, and speech/thought police. The people of Wisconsin are demanding a university system focused on preparing students to prosper in a harshly competitive economy," Nass said.

Nass noted that the activists meeting with Cross provided a list of radical demands (attached) similar to those being forwarded at other universities around the country. Nass noted that the demands, if met, would lead to academic chaos and transform the system further into a tool of indoctrination instead of an institution of education.

"President Cross needs to prioritize the educational interests of all students. By promising to issue an official apology for unsubstantiated charges of racial injustice, he further damages the system's already tattered credibility with the public and further divides the citizens of this state," Nass said.

-End-

"In God We Trust"

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The Urgent Demands of UW's Black Students and of Students of Color ~ 2016

- I. We demand that the University of Wisconsin System President, Raymond Cross, and Board of Regents President, Regina Milner, publically address the failure of progress on diversity within the UW System, along with the failure to execute the goals of Plan 2008 at UW-Madison. We want both Ray Cross and Regina Milner to publically admit that the UW System has much progress in restoring justice to the harm students of color experience.**
- II. We demand that the University of Wisconsin System creates and enforces comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum and trainings throughout all 26 UW Institution departments, mandatory for all students, faculty, staff, campus & system administration, and regents. This curriculum and training must be vetted, maintained, and overseen by a board comprised of students, staff, and faculty of color.**
- III. We demand that the University of Wisconsin System re-evaluate the tenets of Plan 2008 and re-commit to executing the goals of that strategic plan by no later than the end of academic year 2015-16, and if need be re-evaluate and craft a new 10 year strategic Diversity Plan that will be vetted, maintained, and overseen by a board comprised of students, staff, and faculty of color. Additionally, we want this plan to be rolled out by the start of academic year 2016-17.**
- IV. We demand that a systemwide Task Force be created to evaluate the experiences of students of color on each campus. The Task Force will be charged in evaluating diversity curriculums on each campus, study policies related to the funding of UWS Diversity Initiatives, allocation of student segregated fees for student of color/diversity organizations, along with creating any mandatory trainings for campuses that every student, faculty, staff, and administrator will be required to go through**
- V. We demand that the UWS increase funding and resources for UWS Institutions for the purpose of hiring mental health professionals, particularly those of color, boosting mental health outreach and programming across the UW System institutions.**